

REMARKS

In response to the above-identified Office Action, Applicant seeks reconsideration in view of the following remarks and the amendments reflected in the claim listing above. No new matter has been added.

I. Claim Objections

Claims 1 is objected to based on an informality in lines 7 and 8. Claim 1 has been amended to address this informality.

II. Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1, 2 and 8-12 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Pat. Pub No. 2002/0089958 (“Feder”) in view of U.S. Pat. No. 5,509,027 (“Vook”). These rejections are respectfully traversed. None of the cited references, taken alone or in combination, include each and every element of the pending claims.

Feder discloses a point-to-point network of the type that was popular prior to the adoption of WiFi and the IEEE 802.11 family of standards. It uses a proprietary communication scheme, many of which were extant prior to the popularity of WiFi. Therefore, as a preliminary matter, Feder does not disclose communication in accordance with a "wireless communication standard protocol," wherein said data switching hub provides **the functionality of the wireless communications standard protocol** that selectively sends data communications to access points connected to said hub in accordance with destination address data in said communications.

With the rise of the IEEE 802.11 standard, all addressing functionality began to be incorporated into the AP, resulting in what has been termed a "fat" AP. In contrast, the present invention brought about the use of what is now known as “thin” access points -- that is, access points that have reduced MAC layer functionality and are connected to a switching hub by, for example, a wired Ethernet. By handling addressing of packets within the hub, rather than in the AP, the AP is greatly simplified and is significantly faster.

Note also that the wireless hub in Feder does not disclose "association" as that term is used in

the art. Rather, it discloses a "registration" process that does not take place in the wireless hub, but in a registration server in the MSC 40. See, for example, Par. [0062]. See also, Par. [0350], where Feder explicitly states that "[i]n the present invention, registration and routing functions are carried out by separate entities." Thus, Feder does not disclose that a data switching hub "carries out the association of access points and mobile units" as recited in the claims.

Vook fails to cure the defects of Feder with respect to the above elements. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that neither reference, taken alone or in combination with any other art or record, would not include each and every element of the independent claims as currently amended, and furthermore that there is no motivation to combine this reference with the prior art. As the remaining claims variously depend from the independent claims, these claims are also non-obvious for at least the reasons set forth above. Applicants therefore request that the Section 103 rejections be withdrawn.

II. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is believed that all claims now pending are in condition for allowance. A Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited at the earliest possible date. If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference would be useful in moving the application forward to allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned at (480) 385-5060 or dpote@ifllaw.com.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-2091 for any fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17, particularly extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,
Ingrassia, Fisher & Lorenz

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